



US009128598B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Chakirov

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,128,598 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 8, 2015**

(54) **DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING USER INPUT**

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

(75) Inventor: **Martin Chakirov**, Trelleborg (SE)
(73) Assignee: **BlackBerry Limited**, Waterloo, Ontario (CA)
(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 15 days.

2007/0150826 A1 * 6/2007 Anzures et al. 715/772
2007/0278320 A1 * 12/2007 Lunacek et al. 236/94
2008/0167070 A1 * 7/2008 Ishii et al. 455/556.1
2008/0174570 A1 * 7/2008 Jobs et al. 345/173
2009/0064055 A1 3/2009 Chaudhri et al.
2010/0313158 A1 * 12/2010 Lee et al. 715/769
2011/0235990 A1 * 9/2011 Anzures et al. 386/230
2012/0081530 A1 * 4/2012 Kerr et al. 348/61
2012/0162093 A1 * 6/2012 Buxton et al. 345/173

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(21) Appl. No.: **13/551,226**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 17, 2012**

United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office Action issued in U.S. Appl. No. 13/460,270, dated Sep. 10, 2012, 33 pages.
United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office action issued in U.S. Appl. No. 13/460,270, dated Feb. 25, 2013, 36 pages.

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0286035 A1 Oct. 31, 2013

* cited by examiner

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/460,270, filed on Apr. 30, 2012.

Primary Examiner — Olga Merkoulouva

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Fish & Richardson P.C.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G09G 5/02 (2006.01)
G06F 3/0488 (2013.01)
G06F 3/041 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **G06F 3/0488** (2013.01); **G06F 3/0416** (2013.01)
USPC **345/589**; 345/581; 345/173; 715/769; 715/772; 715/764; 715/786; 715/784

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC G06F 3/041; G06F 3/0416; G06F 3/016; G06F 3/0412; G06F 3/04883; G06F 3/0488; G06F 2203/04104; G06F 3/044
USPC 345/169, 156, 157, 173–181; 715/786, 715/784, 772, 769, 764

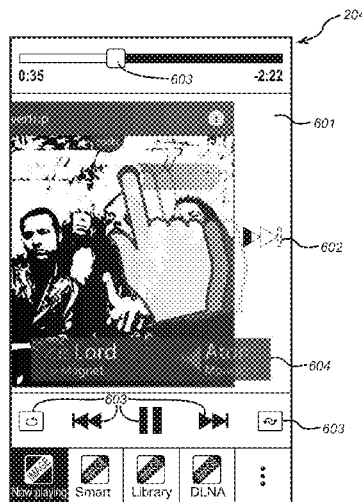
See application file for complete search history.

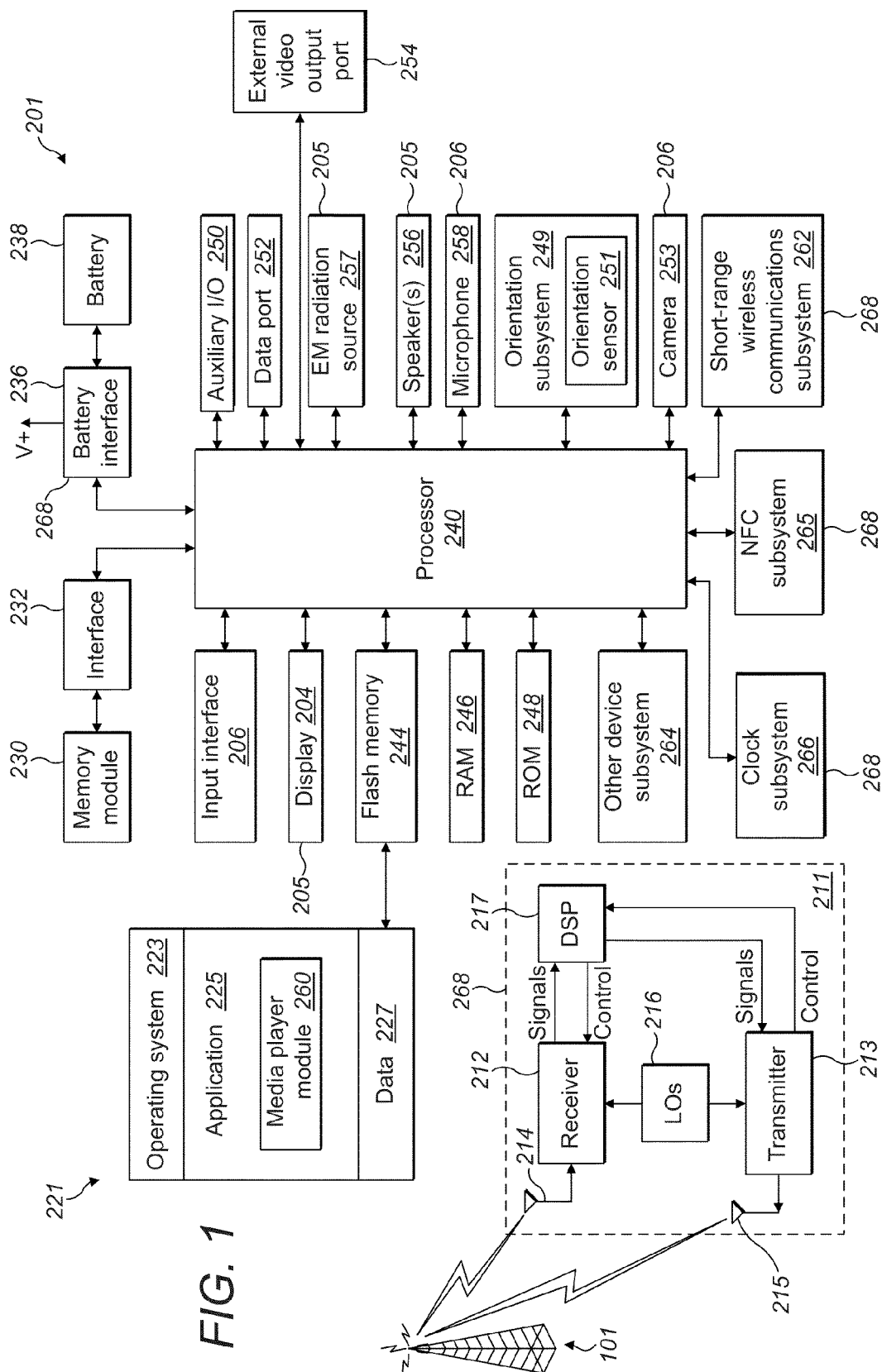
(57)

ABSTRACT

A method for generating display data comprises detecting user input via an input interface. A processor is in communication with the input interface to generate display data comprising a display object for display by a display device. The display object is representative of an action that will subsequently be performed by the processor on continuation of the user input. The display data on the display device is output while the user input is being detected. Alternatively, the display object is caused to appear on the display device over time as the user input is being performed, wherein the rate at which the display object appears is different to the rate of performance of the user input. A device and executable computer program for performing the steps of the method is also provided.

26 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets





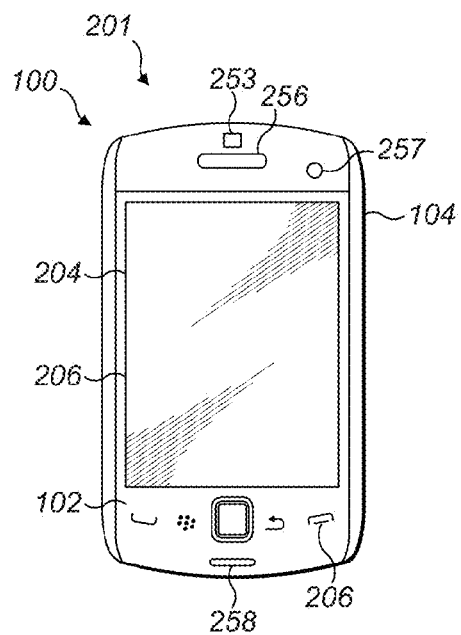


FIG. 2

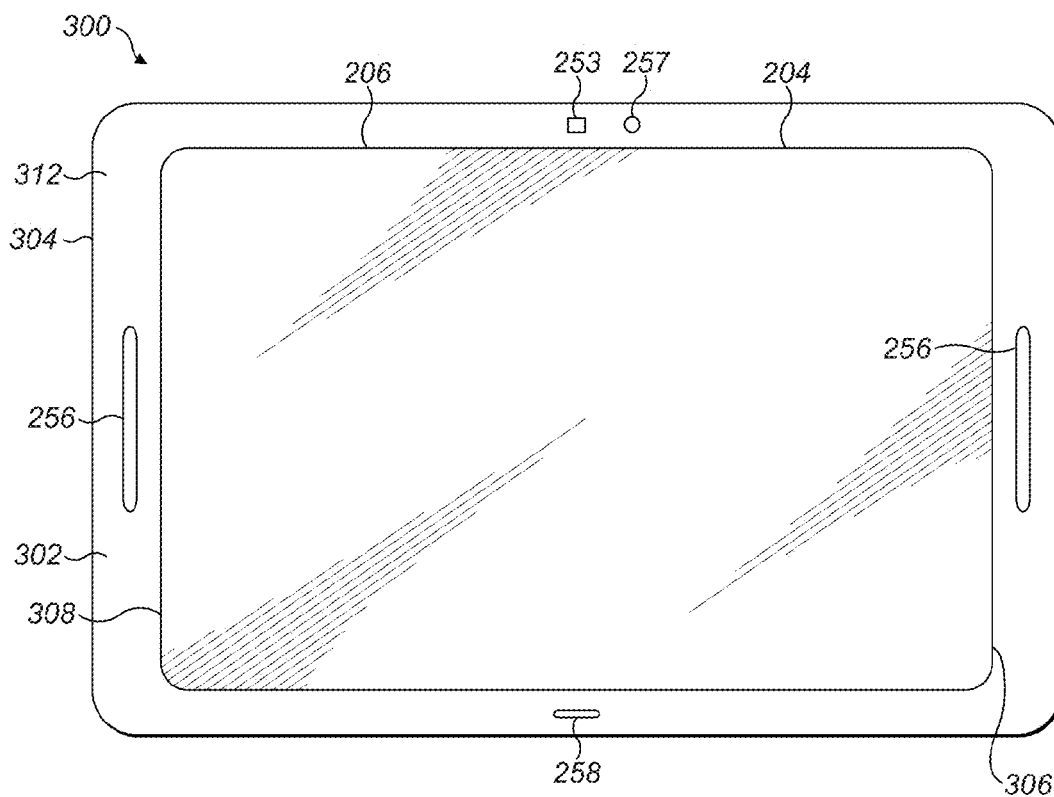


FIG. 3

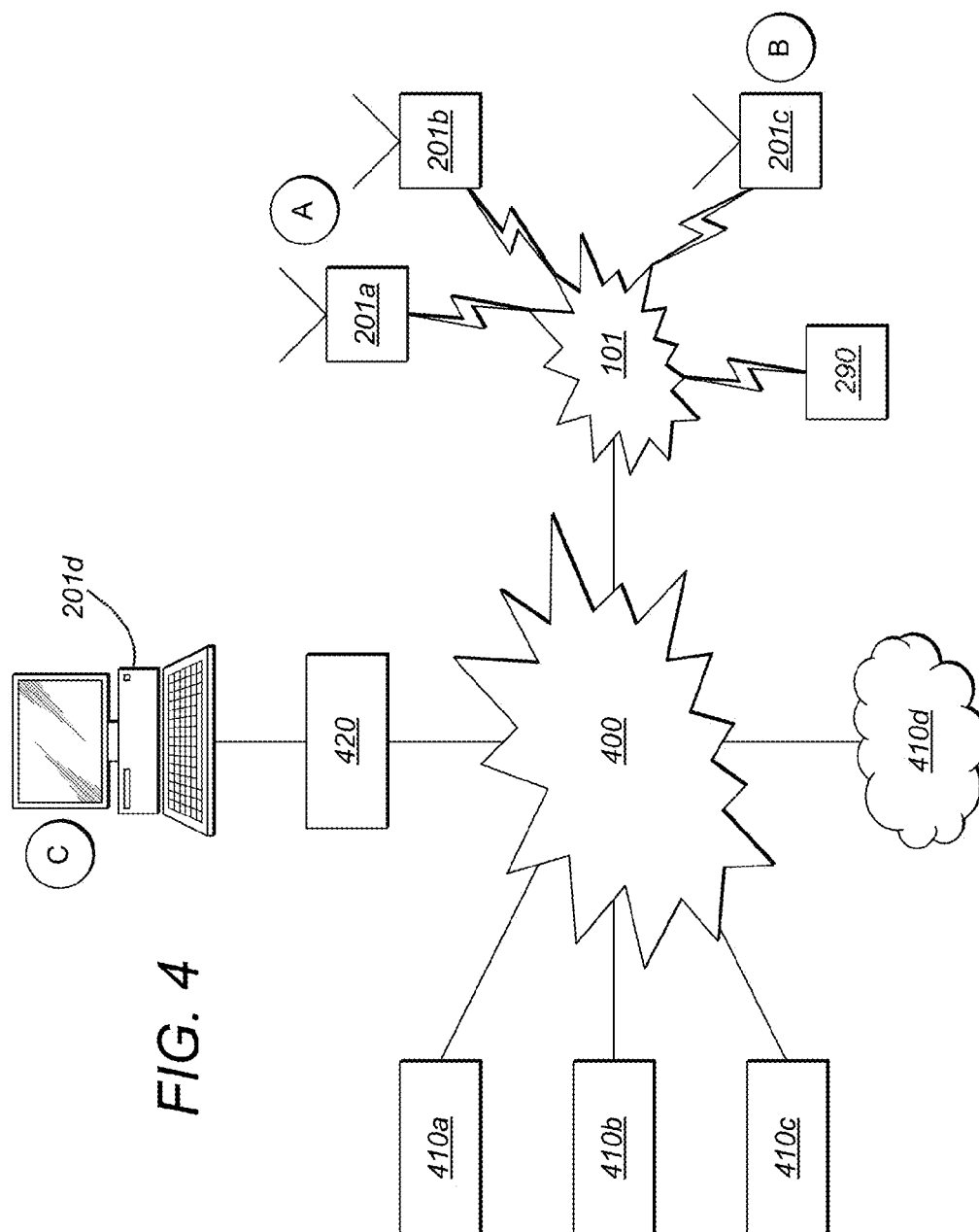
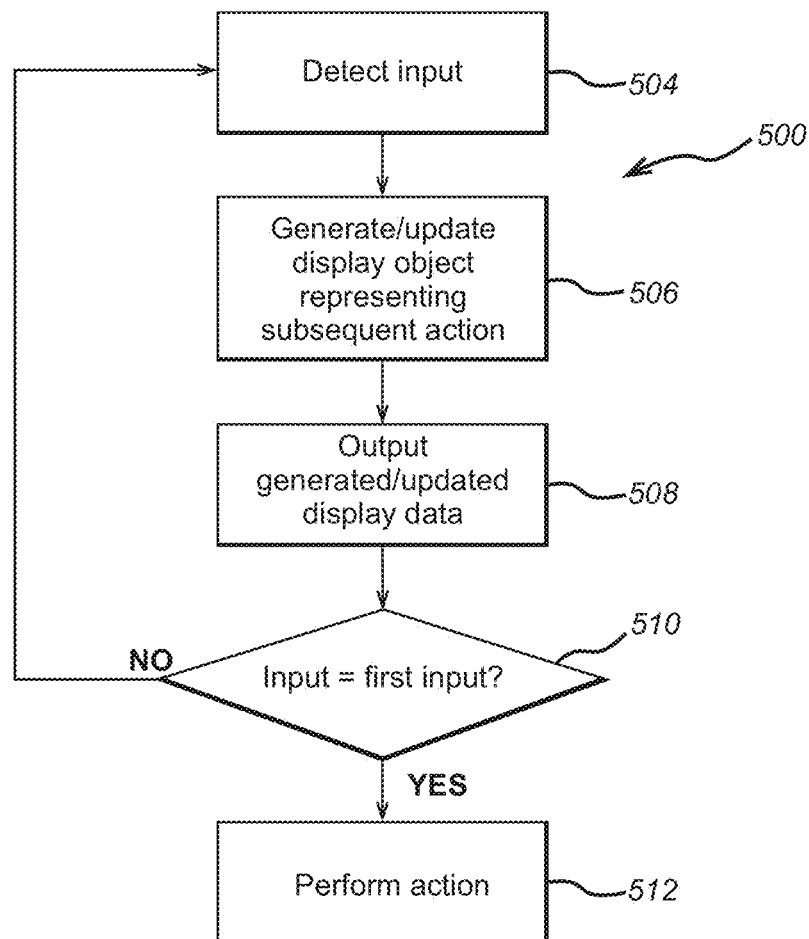
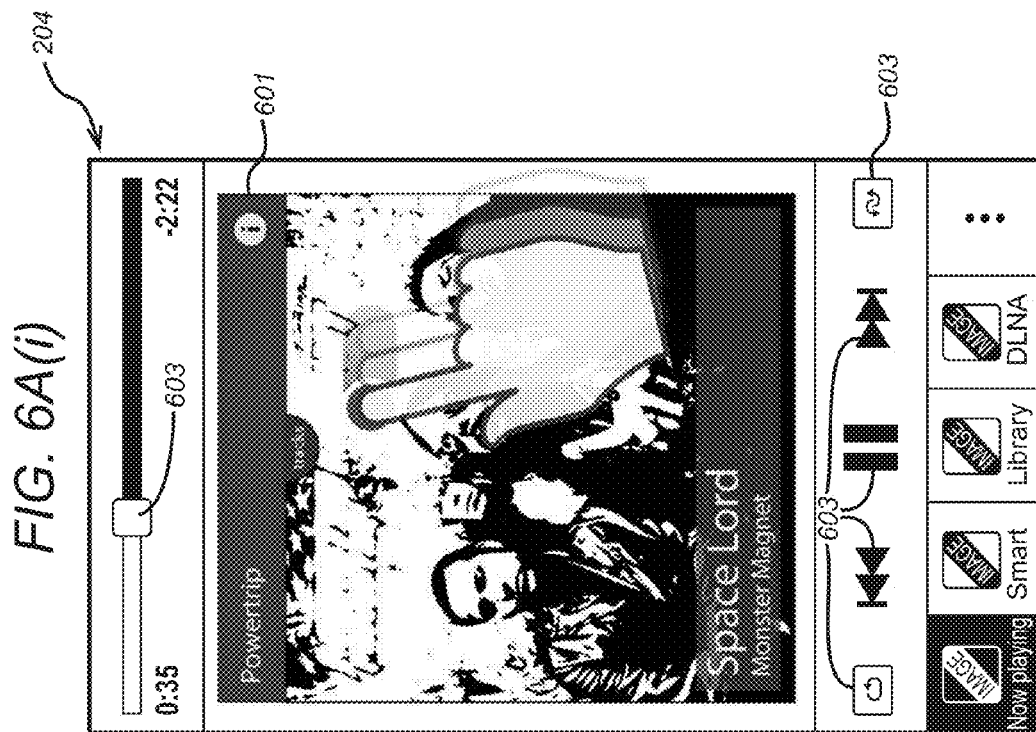
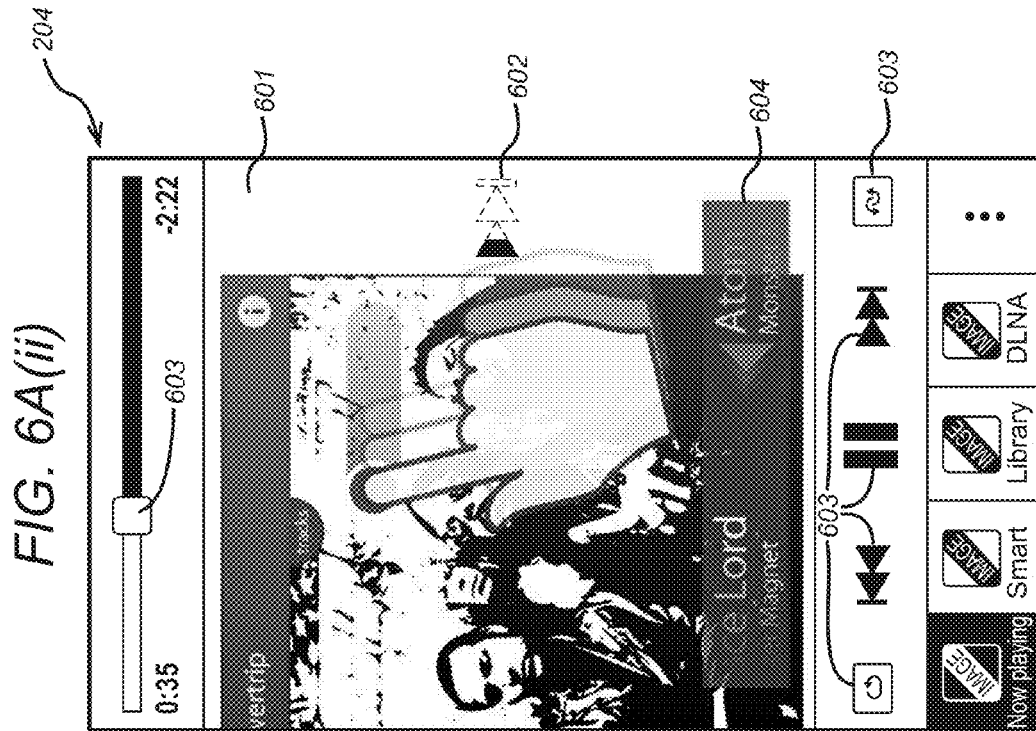
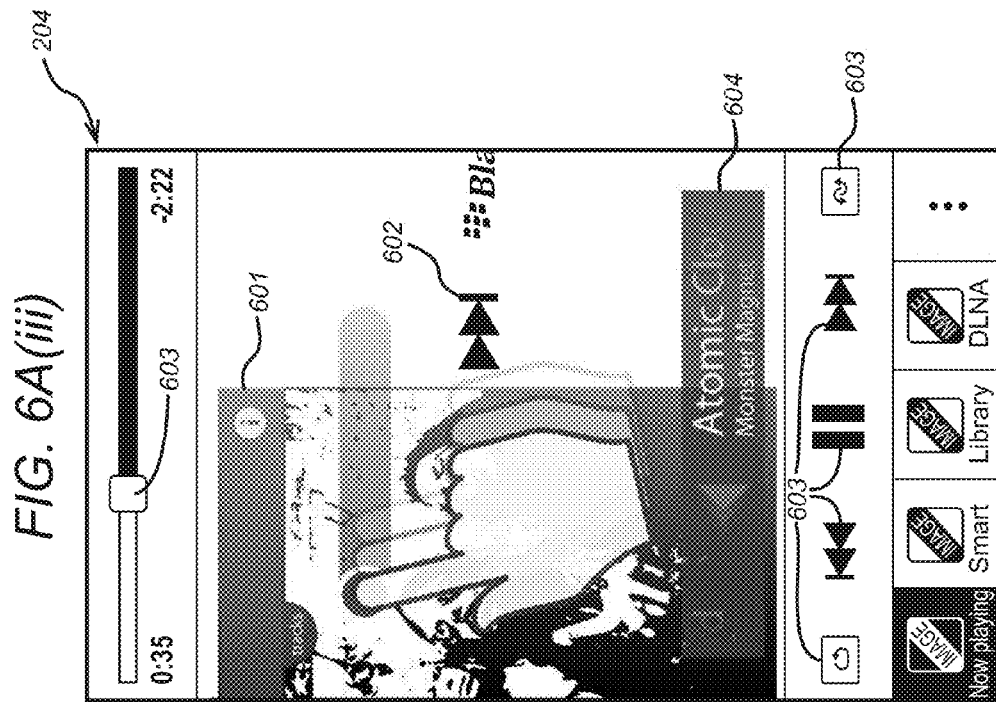
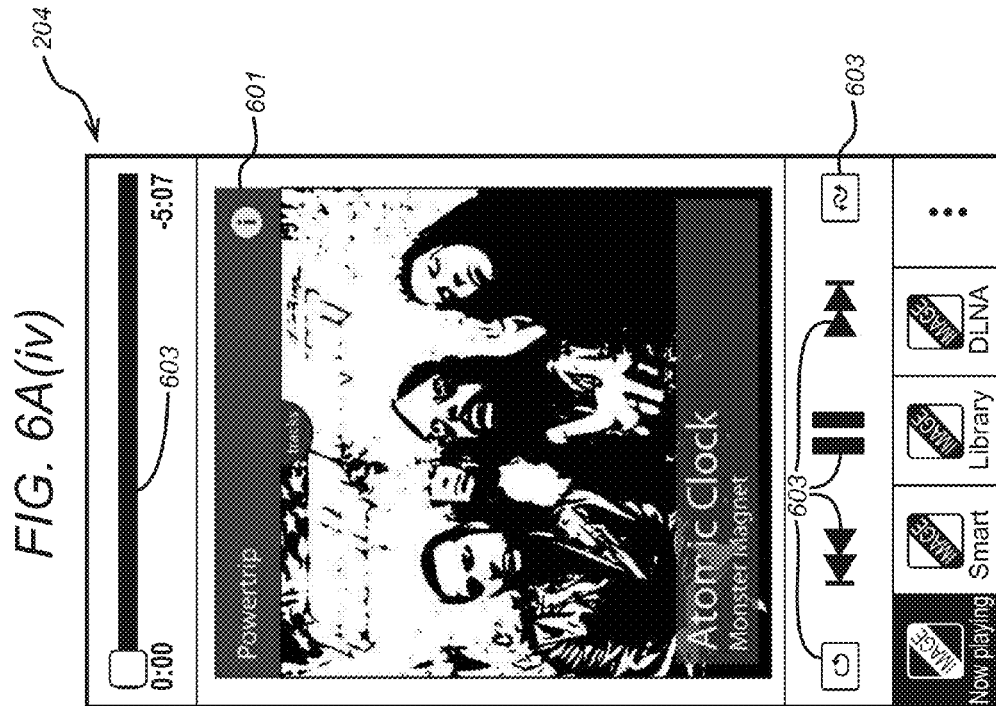
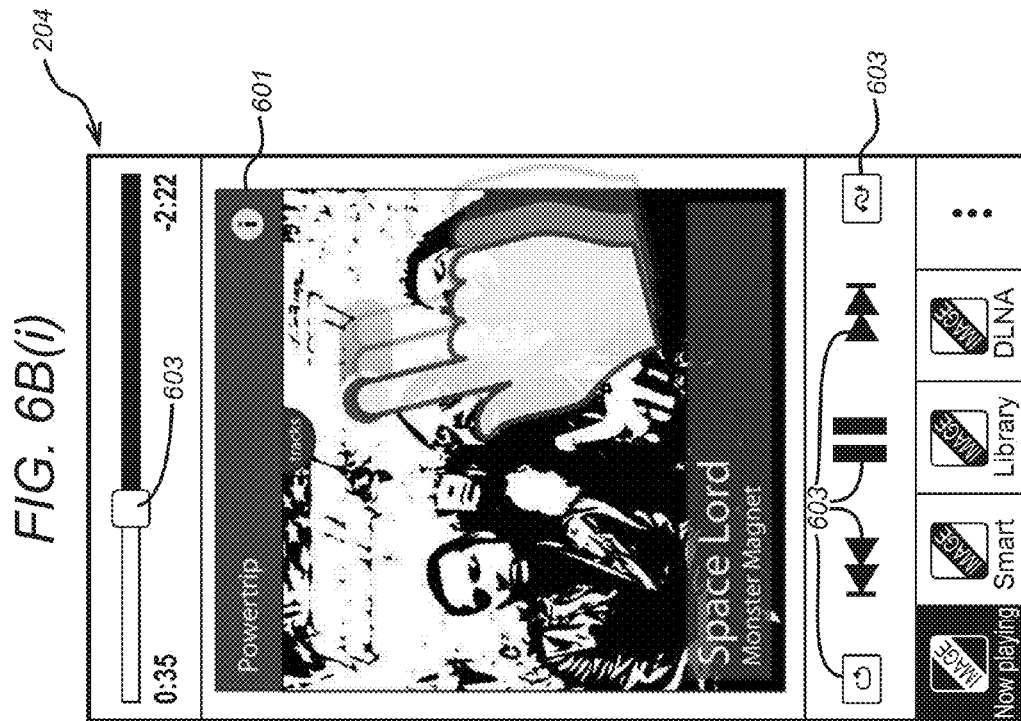
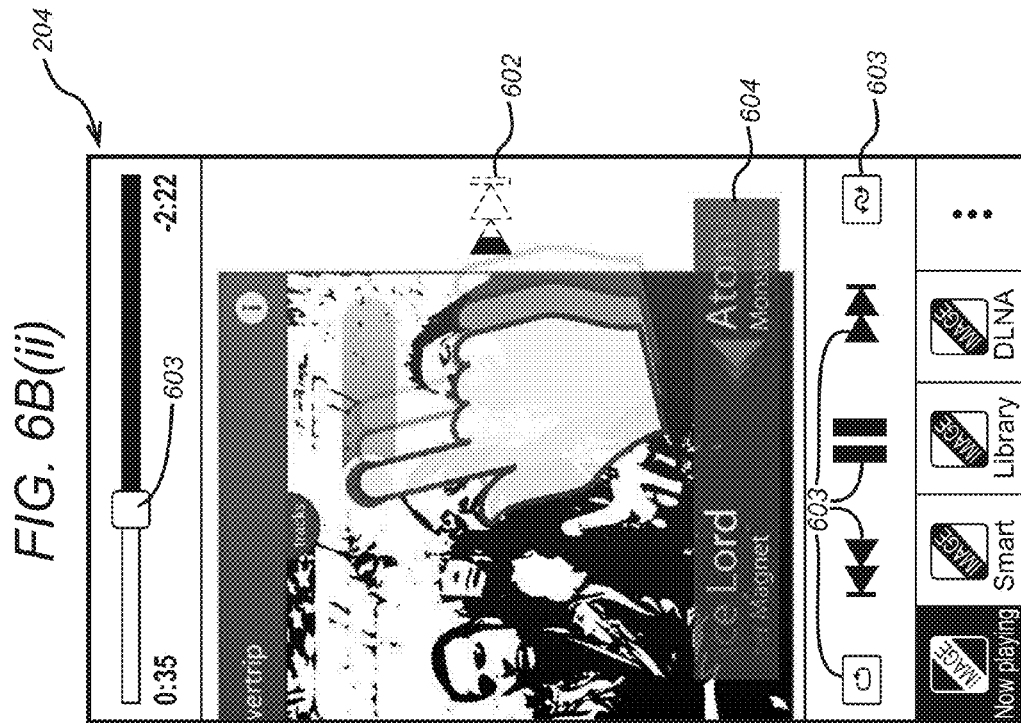


FIG. 5







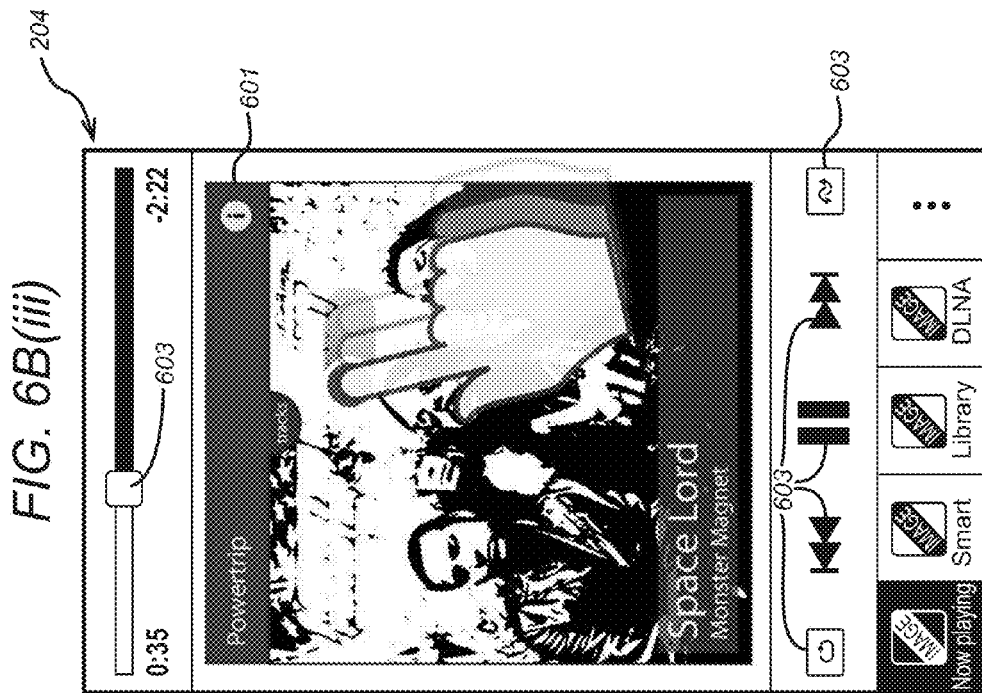
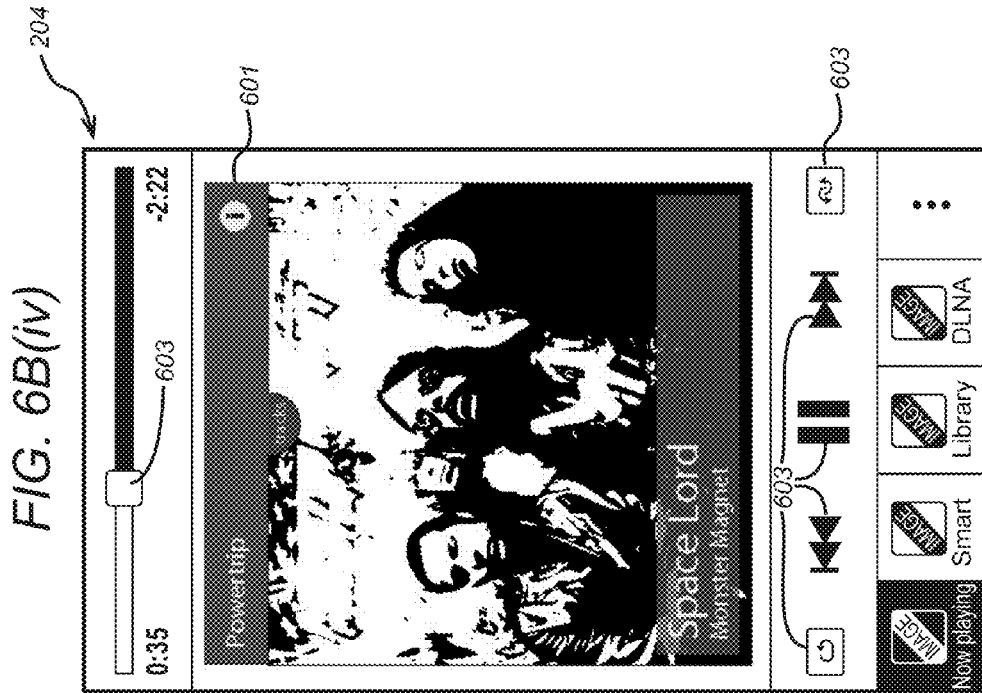
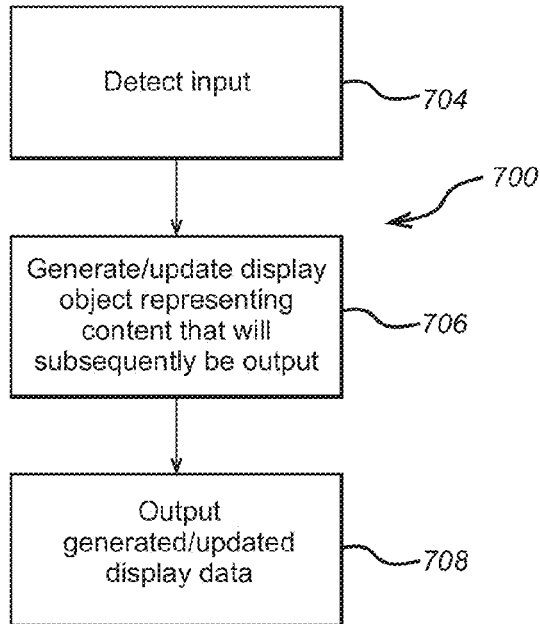
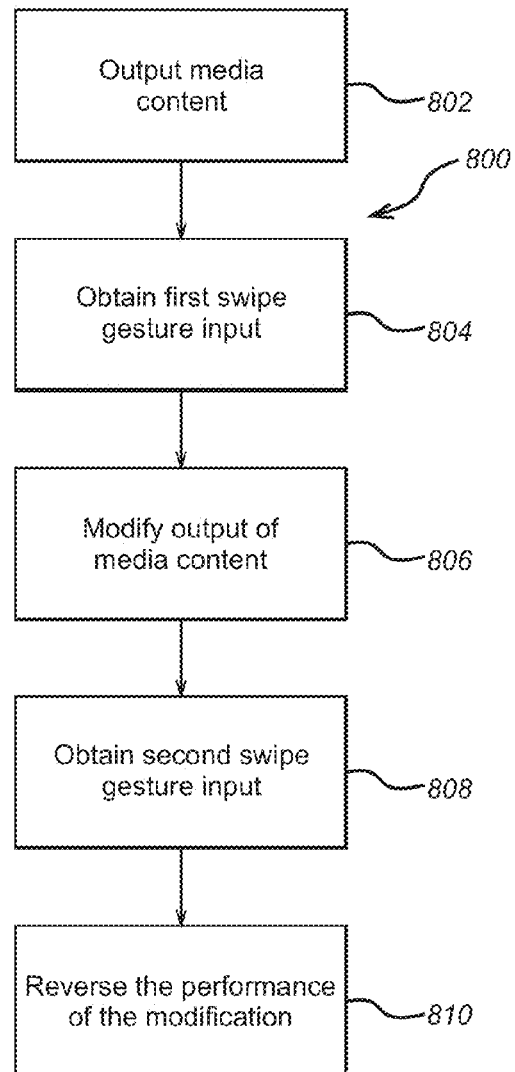


FIG. 7**FIG. 8**

1

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING USER INPUT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/460,270, filed Apr. 30, 2012, the entire contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The embodiments disclosed herein relate to a device, system and method for generating display data.

BACKGROUND

Electronic devices may increasingly be controlled using a wide variety of input types. For example, gesture-based user interfaces enable a user to control the device using gestures such as swipes across a touchscreen interface. However, a common problem found with such user interfaces is how to inform a user of the inputs required to interact with and control the device. Users unaware of the required inputs will not be able to interact effectively with the device and may accidentally activate input commands resulting in undesired actions being performed by the device.

Furthermore, precise input commands such as selection of discreet icons or buttons requires a level of precision that is beyond the capabilities of users who are unfamiliar with such user interfaces, unable to view or concentrate on the screen, or unable to execute the required motions with the necessary precision.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present disclosure and the embodiments set out herein can be better understood with reference to the description of the embodiments set out below, in conjunction with the appended drawings which are:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating components of an exemplary electronic device usable by a user in some embodiments;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the upper external side of one exemplary electronic device usable by an end-user in some embodiments;

FIG. 3 is a plan view of the upper external side of one alternative exemplary electronic device usable by an end-user in some embodiments;

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary system in which the aforementioned electronic devices can be employed in some exemplary embodiments;

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram showing a method for generating display data;

FIGS. 6A(i)-(iv) and 6B(i)-(iv) are exemplary displays showing exemplary input sequences;

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram showing a method for generating display data; and

FIG. 8 is a flow diagram showing a method for modifying the output of media content.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In a first aspect, there is provided a method for generating display data. The method comprises detecting user input via an input interface, the user input comprising a first input; and operating a processor in communication with the input inter-

2

face to generate display data comprising a display object for display by a display device, wherein the display object is representative of an action that will subsequently be performed by the processor on completion of the first input; and operating the processor to output the display data on the display device whilst a common initial input of the first input is being detected.

In one example, the first input comprises a first additional input which is detectable by the processor after the common initial input. As discussed below in more detail, the common initial input may comprise a swipe gesture across a touchscreen interface performed using a finger or stylus and the first additional input may comprise removing the finger or stylus from the touchscreen interface. In general, the first additional input may simply be the step that completes the first input at the end of the common initial input.

The display object may be representative of the first additional input which must be detected by the processor for it to determine that the user input comprises the first input.

The user input may comprise a second input, in response to which the processor does not perform the action, the second input also comprising the common initial input.

In addition to the common initial input, the second input may also comprise a second additional input which is detectable by the processor after the common initial input, wherein the first additional input and the second additional input are different.

The processor may further operate to determine whether completion of the first input has occurred; and perform the action only if completion of the first input is detected. For example, if the processor detects the common initial input and the first additional input, the processor determines that the first input has been completed and the action will be performed by the processor. On the other hand, if the processor detects that the common initial input and the second additional input, the processor determines the second user input and that the first user input has not been completed, in which case, the processor does not perform the action.

The processor may generate the display data in such a way that the display object is caused to appear on the display device as the common initial input is being performed, wherein the rate at which the display object appears is different to the rate of detection of the common initial input. The rate at which the display object appears may be greater (i.e. faster) than the rate of performance of the common initial input. This permits a user to acquire additional information concerning their action when providing user input which might not otherwise be available if the information were to appear on the display at the same rate as the user input is performed.

The display object may be representative of an extent of completion of the common initial input. The display object may additionally be representative of an extent of completion of the first input.

The action may correspond to selection of media content, such as audio or video content, in which case the processor outputs the media content. In this case, the display object may be representative of the media content.

The user interface may be a touchscreen interface, the user input comprise a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface, and the action comprise modifying a current output of media content, for example, by pausing output of the media content.

In a second aspect, there is provided a method for generating display data, the method comprising detecting user input via an input interface, the user input comprising a first input; and operating a processor in communication with the

3

input interface to: generate display data comprising a display object for display by a display device, wherein the display object is representative of content that will subsequently be output on completion of the first user input; and output the display data on the display device whilst a common initial input of the first input is being detected in such a way that the display object is caused to appear on the display device as the user input is being detected, wherein the rate at which the display object appears is different to the rate of detection of the common initial input. For example, the display object may appear at a faster rate than the rate at which the processor detects the user input via the input interface. This permits a user to acquire additional information concerning their action when providing user input which might not otherwise be available if the information were to appear on the display at the same rate as the user input is performed.

In a third aspect, there is provided a method for modifying an output of media content, the method comprising operating a processor to cause an output of media content; detecting user input via a touchscreen interface, the user input comprising a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface; and operating the processor, responsive to the user input, to cause a first modification of the output of the media content.

The user input may comprise a vertical swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface in a first direction.

The processor may detect second user input via the input interface. The second user input may comprise a vertical swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface in a second direction opposite to the first direction; and the processor may perform the reverse of the first modification in response to the second user input detected.

The first modification may comprise pausing output of the media content.

In a fourth aspect, there is provided a computer-readable medium comprising executable instructions which, when executed, cause the processor to perform the above methods.

In a fifth aspect, there is provided a device for generating display data, the device comprising: an input interface configured to detect user input, the user input comprising a first input; a processor in communication with the input interface, the processor being configured to: generate display data comprising a display object for display by a display device, wherein the display object is representative of an action that will subsequently be performed by the processor on completion of the first input; and output the display data on the display device whilst a common initial input of the first input is being detected. The device may be an electronic device as described further below.

In one example, the processor is configured to detect if the first input comprises a first additional input which is detectable by the processor after the common initial input.

The processor may be additionally configured to generate the display data such that the display object is representative of the first additional input which must be detected by the processor for it to determine that the user input comprises the first input.

The processor may be additionally configured to determine if the user input comprises a second input, in response to which the processor does not perform the action, the second input also comprising the common initial input.

The processor may be additionally configured to detect if the second input comprises a second additional input after the common initial input, wherein the first additional input and the second additional input are different.

4

The processor may be additionally configured to determine whether completion of the first input has occurred and perform the action only if completion of the first input has occurred.

The processor may be additionally configured to generate the display data in such a way that the display object is caused to appear on the display device as the common initial input is being detected, wherein the rate at which the display object appears is faster than the rate of detection of the common initial input. The display object may be representative of one or more of an extent of completion of the common initial input; an extent of completion of the first input or further user input required for the processor to determine that the user input comprises the first input.

The processor may be configured to perform an action corresponding to selection of media content and additionally to output the media content. In this case, the display object may be representative of the media content.

The user interface of the device may be a touchscreen interface, the user input comprise a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface, and the processor may be configured to perform an action comprising modifying a current output of media content, for example, by pausing output of the media content.

In a sixth aspect, there is provided a device for generating display data, the device comprising: an input interface for detecting user input, the user input comprising a first input; and a processor in communication with the input interface, the processor being configured to: generate display data comprising a display object for display by a display device, wherein the display object is representative of content that will subsequently be output on completion of the user input; and output the display data on the display device whilst a common initial input of the first input is being detected in such a way that the display object is caused to appear on the display device as the user input is being performed wherein the rate at which the display object appears is different to the rate of detection of the user input. The device may be an electronic device as described further below.

In a seventh aspect, there is provided a device comprising a touchscreen interface configured to detect user input, the user input comprising a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface; and a processor configured to cause an output of media content; and to cause a first modification of the output of the media content responsive to the user input. The device may be an electronic device as described further below.

The processor may be configured to detect user input comprising a vertical swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface in a first direction.

The processor may be further configured to detect second user input via the input interface, the second user input comprising a vertical swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface in a second direction opposite to the first direction; and the processor may perform the reverse of the first modification in response to the second user input detected. In one example, the first modification comprises pausing output of the media content.

This disclosure below is a description of one or more exemplary embodiments which are not intended to be limiting on the scope of the appended claims.

Reference is made to FIG. 1 which illustrates an exemplary electronic device 201 which is usable in accordance with the disclosure below. An electronic device 201 such as the electronic device 201 of FIG. 1 is configured to generate a user-controllable interface on a built-in display or on a remote, external display device, or on a built-in display and on a remote, external display device. In the context of this disclo-

sure, the term “remote” means a display screen which is not built-in to the electronic device **201** with which the electronic device **201** communicates via a physical wired connection or via a wireless connection.

It will be appreciated that, in other embodiments, some of the features, systems or subsystems of the electronic device **201** discussed below with reference to FIG. 1 may be omitted from electronic devices **201** which are intended to perform solely operations in relation to the generation and output of display data and the modification of media content output.

In the illustrated exemplary embodiment, the electronic device **201** is a communication device and, more particularly, is a mobile communication device having data and voice communication capabilities, and the capability to communicate with other computer systems; for example, via the Internet. It will be appreciated that the electronic device **201** may take other forms, including any one of the forms listed below. Depending on the functionality provided by the electronic device **201**, in certain exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** is a multiple-mode communication device configured for both data and voice communication, a mobile telephone, such as a smartphone, a wearable computer such as a watch, a tablet computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), or a computer system such as a notebook, laptop or desktop system. The electronic device **201** may take other forms apart from those specifically listed above. The electronic device **201** may also be referred to as a mobile communications device, a communication device, a mobile device and, in some cases, as a device. In the context of this disclosure, the term “mobile” means the device is of a size or weight which makes it readily portable by a single individual, e.g. of a weight less than 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0.5, 0.4, 0.3, 0.2 or 0.1 kilograms, or of a volume less than 15,000, 10,000, 5,000, 4,000, 3,000, 2,000, 1,000, 500, 400, 300, 200, 100, 90, 80, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10 or 5 cubic centimeters. As such, the device **201** may be portable in a bag, or clothing pocket.

The electronic device **201** includes a controller including a processor **240** (such as a microprocessor) which controls the operation of the electronic device **201**. In certain electronic devices, more than one processor is provided, with each processor in communication with each other and configured to perform operations in parallel, so that they together control the overall operation of the electronic device. The processor **240** interacts with device subsystems, such as a wireless communication subsystem **211** for exchanging radio frequency signals with a wireless network **101** to perform communication functions. The processor **240** is communicably coupled with additional device subsystems including one or more output interfaces **205** (such as one or more of: a display **204**, a speaker **256**, electromagnetic (EM) radiation source **257**), one or more input interfaces **206** (such as one or more of: a camera **253**, microphone **258**, keyboard (not shown), control buttons (not shown), a navigational input device (not shown), a touch-sensitive overlay (not shown)) associated with a touchscreen **204**, an orientation subsystem **249**, memory (such as flash memory **244**, random access memory (RAM) **246**, read only memory (ROM) **248**, etc.), auxiliary input/output (I/O) subsystems **250**, a data port **252** (which may be a serial data port, such as a Universal Serial Bus (USB) data port), an external video output port **254**, a near field communications (NFC) subsystem **265**, a short-range communication subsystem **262**, a clock subsystem **266**, a battery interface **236**, and other device subsystems generally designated as **264**. Some of the subsystems shown in FIG. 1 perform communication-related functions, whereas other subsystems may provide “resident” or on-device functions.

The electronic device **201** stores data **227** in an erasable persistent memory, which in one exemplary embodiment is the flash memory **244**. In various exemplary embodiments, the data **227** includes service data including information used by the electronic device **201** to establish and maintain communication with the wireless network **101**. The data **227** may also include user application data such as email messages, address book and contact information, calendar and schedule information, notepad documents, presentation documents and information, word processor documents and information, spread sheet documents and information; desktop publishing documents and information, database files and information; image files, video files, audio files, internet web pages, and other commonly stored user information stored on the electronic device **201** by its user, and other data. The data may also include program application data such as functions, controls and interfaces from an application such as an email application, an address book application, a calendar application, a notepad application, a presentation application, a word processor application, a spread sheet application, a desktop publishing application, a database application, a media application such as a picture viewer, a video player or an audio player, and a web browser. The data **227** stored in the persistent memory (e.g. flash memory **244**) of the electronic device **201** may be organized, at least partially, into one or more databases or data stores. The databases or data stores may contain data items of the same data type or associated with the same application. For example, email messages, contact records, and task items may be stored in individual databases within the device memory.

The electronic device **201** includes a clock subsystem or module **266** comprising a system clock configured to measure system time. In one example, the system clock comprises its own alternate power source. The system clock provides an indicator of a current time value, the system time, represented as a year/month/day/hour/minute/second/milliseconds value. In other examples, the clock subsystem **266** additionally or alternatively provides an indicator of the current time value represented as a count of the number of ticks of known duration since a particular epoch.

The clock subsystem **266**, the communication subsystem **211**, the NFC subsystem, **265**, the short-range wireless communications subsystem **262**, and the battery interface **236** together form a status report subsystem **268** which is configured to provide an indicator of the operating status of the device.

The display **204** receives display data generated by the processor **240**, such that the display **204** displays certain application data stored as a segment of the data **227** from the memory (any of the flash memory **244**, random access memory (RAM) **246**, read only memory (ROM) **248**) in a predetermined way on display screen (not shown) of the display **204**, according to the processing performed by the processor **240**.

In certain exemplary embodiments, the external video output port **254** is integrated with the data port **252**. The external video output port **254** is configured to connect the electronic device **201** via a wired connection (e.g. video graphics array (VGA), digital visual interface (DVI) or high definition multimedia interface (HDMI)) to an external (or remote) display device **290** which is separate and remote from the electronic device **201** and its display **204**. The processor **240** outputs external display data generated by the processor **240** via the external video output port **254**, such that the external display device **290** can display application data from the memory module in a predetermined way on an external display screen (not shown) of the external display device **290**. The processor

240 may also communicate the external display data to the external display device **290** in a similar fashion over a wireless communications path.

At any given time, the display data and the external display data generated by the processor **240** may be identical or similar for a predetermined period of time, but may also differ for a predetermined period of time, with the processor **240** controlling whether the display data and the external display data are identical or differ based on input from one or more of the input interfaces **206**. In this context, the word “identical” means that both sets of data comprise similar content so as to generate an identical or substantially similar display at substantially the same time on both the external display device **290** and the display **204**. In this context, the word “differ” means that the external display data and display data are not identical; this is to say that these data may (but not necessarily) include identical elements of data, for example representative of the same application data, but the external display data and display data are not wholly identical. Hence, the display on both the external display device **290** and the display **204** are not wholly identical, although similar or identical individual items of content based on the application data may be displayed on both the external display device **290** and the display **204**.

In at least some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** includes a touchscreen which acts as both an input interface **206** (e.g. touch-sensitive overlay) and an output interface **205** (i.e. display). The touchscreen may be constructed using a touch-sensitive input surface which is connected to an electronic controller and which overlays the display **204**. The touch-sensitive overlay and the electronic controller provide a touch-sensitive input interface **206** and the processor **240** interacts with the touch-sensitive overlay via the electronic controller.

As discussed in detail below with respect to FIGS. 5-8, the processor **240** is in communication with the memory and the touch-sensitive input interface **206** to detect user input via the input interface **206**. The processor **240** then generates or updates display data comprising a display object for display by the display device **204** in accordance with the user input. The display object may be representative of an action that will subsequently be performed by the processor **240** on continuation of the user input. Additionally or alternatively, the display object may be representative of content that will be output on continuation of the user input. The processor **240** then outputs the display data for display on the display device **204**. Additionally or alternatively, the processor **240** may modify a current output of media in accordance with user input detected via the touchscreen interface **206**. In an example, the user input comprises a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface **206**.

In at least some exemplary embodiments, the touch-sensitive overlay has a touch-sensitive input surface which is larger than the display **204**. For example, in at least some exemplary embodiments, the touch-sensitive overlay may extend over-top of a frame (not shown) which surrounds the display **204**. In such exemplary embodiments, the frame (not shown) may be referred to as an active frame since it is capable of acting as an input interface **206**. In at least some exemplary embodiments, the touch-sensitive overlay may extend to the sides of the electronic device **201**.

As noted above, in some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** includes a communication subsystem **211** which allows the electronic device **201** to communicate over a wireless network **101**. The communication subsystem **211** includes a receiver **212**, a transmitter **213**, and associated components, such as one or more antenna elements **214** and

215, local oscillators (LOs) **216**, and a processing module such as a digital signal processor (DSP) **217** which is in communication with the processor **240**. The antenna elements **214** and **215** may be embedded or internal to the electronic device **201** and a single antenna may be shared by both receiver and transmitter. The particular design of the wireless communication subsystem **211** depends on the wireless network **101** in which electronic device **201** is intended to operate.

In at least some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** communicates with any one of a plurality of fixed transceiver base stations of the wireless network **101** within its geographic coverage area. The electronic device **201** may send and receive communication signals over the wireless network **101** after the required network registration or activation procedures have been completed. Signals received by the antenna **214** through the wireless network **101** are input to the receiver **212**, which may perform such common receiver functions as signal amplification, frequency down conversion, filtering, channel selection, etc., as well as analog-to-digital (ND) conversion. A/D conversion of a received signal allows more complex communication functions such as demodulation and decoding to be performed in the DSP **217**. In a similar manner, signals to be transmitted are processed, including modulation and encoding, for example, by the DSP **217**. These DSP-processed signals are input to the transmitter **213** for digital-to-analog (D/A) conversion, frequency up conversion, filtering, amplification, and transmission to the wireless network **101** via the antenna **215**. The DSP **217** not only processes communication signals, but may also provide for receiver and transmitter control. For example, the gains applied to communication signals in the receiver **212** and the transmitter **213** may be adaptively controlled through automatic gain control algorithms implemented in the DSP **217**.

In some exemplary embodiments, the auxiliary input/output (I/O) subsystems **250** include an external communication link or interface; for example, an Ethernet connection. The electronic device **201** may include other wireless communication interfaces for communicating with other types of wireless networks; for example, a wireless network such as an orthogonal frequency division multiplexed (OFDM) network. The auxiliary I/O subsystems **250** may include a vibrator for providing vibratory notifications in response to various events on the electronic device **201** such as receipt of an electronic communication or incoming phone call, or for other purposes such as haptic feedback (touch feedback).

In some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** also includes a removable memory module **230** (typically including flash memory, such as a removable memory card) and a memory interface **232**. Network access may be associated with a subscriber or user of the electronic device **201** via the memory module **230**, which may be a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card for use in a GSM network or other type of memory card for use in the relevant wireless network type. The memory module **230** is inserted in or connected to the memory card interface **232** of the electronic device **201** in order to operate in conjunction with the wireless network **101**.

The data port **252** may be used for synchronization with a user's host computer system (not shown). The data port **252** enables a user to set preferences through an external device or software application and extends the capabilities of the electronic device **201** by providing for information or software downloads to the electronic device **201** other than through the wireless network **101**. The alternate download path may for example, be used to load an encryption key onto the electronic device **201** through a direct, reliable and trusted connection to thereby provide secure device communication.

In at least some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** also includes a device orientation subsystem **249** including at least one orientation sensor **251** which is connected to the processor **240** and which is controlled by one or a combination of a monitoring circuit and operating software. The orientation sensor **251** detects the orientation of the device **201** or information from which the orientation of the device **201** can be determined, such as acceleration. In some exemplary embodiments, the orientation sensor **251** is an accelerometer, such as a three-axis accelerometer. An accelerometer is a sensor which converts acceleration from motion (e.g. movement of the device **201** or a portion thereof due to the strike force) and gravity which are detected by a sensing element into an electrical signal (producing a corresponding change in output). Accelerometers may be available in one, two or three axis configurations. Higher order axis configurations are also possible. Accelerometers may produce digital or analog output signals depending on the type of accelerometer.

An orientation sensor **251** may generate orientation data which specifies the orientation of the electronic device **201**. The orientation data, in at least some exemplary embodiments, specifies the orientation of the device **201** relative to the gravitational field of the earth. Additionally or alternatively, the orientation sensor **251** may generate orientation data which specifies the orientation of the device relative to known locations or fixtures in a communication network.

In some exemplary embodiments, the orientation subsystem **249** includes other orientation sensors **251**, instead of or in addition to accelerometers. For example, in various exemplary embodiments, the orientation subsystem **249** may include a gravity sensor, a gyroscope, a tilt sensor, an electronic compass or other suitable sensor, or combinations thereof. In some exemplary embodiments, the device orientation subsystem **249** may include two or more orientation sensors **251** such as an accelerometer and an electronic compass.

The electronic device **201**, in at least some exemplary embodiments, includes a Near-Field Communication (NFC) subsystem **265**. The NFC subsystem **265** is configured to communicate with other electronic devices **201** or tags, using an NFC communications protocol. NFC is a set of short-range wireless technologies which typically require a distance of 4 cm or less for communications. The NFC subsystem **265** may include an NFC chip and an NFC antenna. In such an embodiment, the orientation sensor **251** may generate data which specifies a distance between the electronic device **201** and an NFC transceiver.

The electronic device **201** includes a microphone or one or more speakers. In at least some exemplary embodiments, an electronic device **201** includes a plurality of speakers **256**. For example, in some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** includes two or more speakers **256**. The two or more speakers **256** may, for example, be disposed in spaced relation to one another. That is, in at least some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** may include a first speaker and a second speaker and the first speaker and the second speaker may be spatially separated from one another within the electronic device **201**. In at least some exemplary embodiments, the display **204** may be disposed between the first speaker and the second speaker of the electronic device. In such exemplary embodiments, the first speaker may be located at one side of the display **204** and the second speaker may be located at another side of the display which is opposite the side of the display where the first speaker is located. For

example, the first speaker may be disposed at a left side of the display and the second speaker may be disposed at a right side of the display.

In at least some exemplary embodiments, each speaker **256** is associated with a separate audio channel. The multiple speakers may, for example, be used to provide stereophonic sound (which may also be referred to as stereo).

The electronic device **201** may also include one or more cameras **253**. The one or more cameras **253** may be capable of capturing images in the form of still photographs or motion video.

In at least some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** includes a front facing camera **253**. A front facing camera is a camera which is generally located on a front face of the electronic device **201**. The front face is typically the face on which a display **204** is mounted. That is, the display **204** is configured to display content which may be viewed from a side of the electronic device **201** where the camera **253** is directed. The front facing camera **253** may be located anywhere on the front surface of the electronic device; for example, the camera **253** may be located above or below the display **204**. The camera **253** may be a fixed position camera which is not movable relative to the display **204** of the electronic device **201** or the housing of the electronic device **201**. In such exemplary embodiments, the direction of capture of the camera is always predictable relative to the display **204** or the housing. In at least some exemplary embodiments, the camera may be provided in a central location relative to the display **204** to facilitate image acquisition of a face.

In at least some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** includes an electromagnetic (EM) radiation source **257**. In at least some exemplary embodiments, the EM radiation source **257** is configured to emit electromagnetic radiation from the side of the electronic device which is associated with a camera **253** of that electronic device **201**. For example, where the camera is a front facing camera **253**, the electronic device **201** may be configured to emit electromagnetic radiation from the front face of the electronic device **201**. That is, in at least some exemplary embodiments, the electromagnetic radiation source **257** is configured to emit radiation in a direction which may be visible by the camera. That is, the camera **253** and the electromagnetic radiation source **257** may be disposed on the electronic device **201** so that electromagnetic radiation emitted by the electromagnetic radiation source **257** is visible in images detected by the camera.

In some exemplary embodiments, the electromagnetic radiation source **257** is an infrared (IR) radiation source which is configured to emit infrared radiation. In at least some exemplary embodiments, the electromagnetic radiation source **257** may be configured to emit radiation which is not part of the visible spectrum. The camera **253** may be a camera which is configured to capture radiation of the type emitted by the electromagnetic radiation source **257**. Accordingly, in at least some exemplary embodiments, the camera **253** is configured to capture at least some electromagnetic radiation which is not in the visible spectrum.

In some exemplary embodiments, the electronic device **201** is provided with a service routing application programming interface (API) which provides an application with the ability to route traffic through a serial data (i.e., USB) or Bluetooth® (Bluetooth® is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc.) connection to a host computer system using standard connectivity protocols. When a user connects their electronic device **201** to the host computer system via a USB cable or Bluetooth® connection, traffic that was destined for the wireless network **101** is automatically routed to the elec-

11

tronic device **201** using the USB cable or Bluetooth® connection. Similarly, any traffic destined for the wireless network **101** is automatically sent over the USB cable Bluetooth® connection to the host computer system for processing.

The electronic device **201** also includes a battery **238** as a power source, which is typically one or more rechargeable batteries that may be charged for example, through charging circuitry coupled to a battery interface **236** such as the data port **252**. The battery **238** provides electrical power to at least some of the electrical circuitry in the electronic device **201**, and the battery interface **236** provides a mechanical and electrical connection for the battery **238**. The battery interface **236** is coupled to a regulator (not shown) which provides power V+ to the circuitry of the electronic device **201**.

The electronic device **201** includes a short-range communication subsystem **262** which provides for wireless communication between the electronic device **201** and other electronic devices **201**. In at least some exemplary embodiments, the short-range communication subsystem **262** is a wireless bus protocol compliant communication mechanism such as a Bluetooth® communication module to provide for communication with similarly-enabled systems and devices.

Any one or more of the communication subsystem **211**, the NFC subsystem **265** and the short-range wireless communications subsystem **262** serves as a “communication subsystem” which is configured to provide an indicator of the number of incoming messages being received by the electronic device **201**. The incoming messages may be emails, messages received via a social networking website, SMS (short message service) messages, or telephone calls, for example.

The electronic device **201** is, in some exemplary embodiments, a mobile communication device which may provide two principal modes of communication: a data communication mode and a voice communication mode. In the data communication mode, a received data signal such as a text message, an email message, or Web page download will be processed by the communication subsystem **211** and input to the processor **240** for further processing. For example, a downloaded Web page may be further processed by a browser application or an email message may be processed by an email messaging application and output to the display **204**. A user of the electronic device **201** can compose data items, such as email messages; for example, using the input devices in conjunction with the display **204**. These composed items may be transmitted through the communication subsystem **211** over the wireless network **101**.

In the voice communication mode, the electronic device **201** provides telephony functions and operates as a typical cellular phone. The overall operation is similar, except that the received signals would be output to the speaker **256** and signals for transmission would be generated by a transducer such as the microphone **258**. The telephony functions are provided by a combination of software/firmware (i.e., a voice communication module) and hardware (i.e., the microphone **258**, the speaker **256** and input interfaces **206**). Alternative voice or audio I/O subsystems, such as a voice message recording subsystem, may also be implemented on the electronic device **201**. Although voice or audio signal output is typically accomplished primarily through the speaker **256**, the display screen **204** may also be used to provide an indication of the identity of a calling party, duration of a voice call, or other voice call related information.

The processor **240** operates under stored program control and executes software modules **221** stored in memory such as persistent memory; for example, in the flash memory **244**. As

12

illustrated in FIG. **1**, the software modules **221** include operating system software **223** and other software applications **225** such as a media player module **260**. In the exemplary embodiment of FIG. **1**, the media player module **260** is implemented as a stand-alone application **225**. However, in other exemplary embodiments, the presentation module **260** could be implemented as part of the operating system **223** or other applications **225**.

As discussed above, electronic devices **201** which are configured to perform operations in relation to a communications log may take a variety of forms. In at least some exemplary embodiments, one or more of the electronic devices which are configured to perform operations in relation to the presentation module **260** are a smart phone or a tablet computer.

Referring now to FIG. **2**, a front view of an exemplary electronic device **201** which in one example may be a smartphone **100** is illustrated. The smartphone **100** is a mobile phone which offers more advanced computing capability than a basic non-smartphone cellular phone. For example, the smartphone **100** may have the ability to run third party applications which are stored on the smartphone.

The smartphone **100** includes all of the components discussed above with reference to FIG. **1**, or a subset of those components. The smartphone **100** includes a housing **104** which houses at least some of the components discussed above with reference to FIG. **1**.

In the exemplary embodiment, the smartphone includes a display **204**, which may be a touchscreen which acts as an input interface **206**. The display **204** is disposed within the smartphone **100** so that it is viewable at a front side **102** of the smartphone **100**. That is, a viewable side of the display **204** is disposed on the front side **102** of the smartphone. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated, the display **204** is framed by the housing **104**.

The example smartphone **100** also includes other input interfaces **206** such as one or more buttons, keys or navigational input mechanisms. In the example illustrated, at least some of these additional input interfaces **206** are disposed for actuation at a front side **102** of the smartphone.

The example smartphone also includes a speaker **256**. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated, the smartphone includes a single speaker **256** which is disposed vertically above the display **204** when the smartphone **100** is held in a portrait orientation where its height is longer than its width. The speaker **256** may be disposed on the front face of the smartphone **100**.

While the example smartphone **100** of FIG. **2** includes a single speaker **256**, in other exemplary embodiments, the smartphone **100** may include a greater number of speakers **256**. For example, in at least some exemplary embodiments, the smartphone **100** may include a second speaker **256** which is disposed vertically below the display **204** when the smartphone is held in a portrait orientation where its height is longer than its width (i.e. the orientation illustrated in FIG. **2**).

The example smartphone **100** also includes a microphone **258**. In the example illustrated, the microphone **258** is vertically disposed below the display **204** when the smartphone is held in the portrait orientation. The microphone **258** and at least one speaker **256** may be arranged so that the microphone is in close proximity to a user's mouth and the speaker **256** is in close proximity to a user's ear when the user holds the phone to their face to converse on the smartphone.

The example smartphone **100** also includes a front facing camera **253** which may be located vertically above the display **204** when the smartphone **100** is held in a portrait orientation where its height is longer than its width. The front facing

13

camera **253** is located so that it may capture images of objects which are located in front of or surrounding the front side of the smartphone **100**.

The example smartphone **100** also includes an electromagnetic radiation source **257**. The electromagnetic radiation source **257** is disposed on the front side **102** of the smartphone **100**. In this orientation, electromagnetic radiation which is produced by the electromagnetic radiation source **257** may be projected onto objects which are located in front of or surrounding the front side of the smartphone **100**. Such electromagnetic radiation (or the projection of electromagnetic radiation onto objects) may be captured on images detected by the camera **253**.

Referring now to FIG. 3, a front view of an example electronic device **201**, which in one example may be a tablet computer **300**, is illustrated. The tablet computer **300** may include the components discussed above with reference to FIG. 1 or a subset of those components. The tablet computer **300** includes a housing **304** which houses at least some of the components discussed above with reference to FIG. 1.

The tablet computer **300** includes a display **204**, which may be a touchscreen which acts as an input interface **206**. The display **204** is disposed within the tablet computer **300** so that it is viewable at a front side **302** of the tablet computer **300**. That is, a viewable side of the display **204** is disposed on the front side **302** of the tablet computer **300**. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated, the display **204** is framed by the housing **304**.

A frame **312** surrounds the display **204**. The frame **312** is portion of the housing **304** which provides a border around the display **204**. In at least some exemplary embodiments, the frame **312** is an active frame **312**. That is, the frame has a touch sensitive overlay which allows the electronic device **201** to detect a touch applied to the frame thus allowing the frame **312** to act as an input interface **206** (FIG. 1).

The exemplary tablet computer **300** includes a plurality of speakers **256**. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated, the tablet includes two speakers **256**. The two speakers **256** are disposed on opposing sides of the display **204**. More particularly, when the tablet computer **300** is held in a landscape orientation (such as the orientation illustrated in FIG. 3) where its width is longer than its height, one of the two speakers is disposed on a right side **306** of the display **204** and one of the speakers is disposed on the left side **308** of the display **204**.

Both speakers **256** are disposed on the front side **302** of the tablet computer **300**.

The exemplary tablet computer **300** also includes a microphone **258**. In the example illustrated, the microphone **258** is vertically disposed below the display **204** when the tablet computer is held in the landscape orientation illustrated in FIG. 3. The microphone **258** may be located in other locations in other exemplary embodiments.

The exemplary tablet computer **300** also includes a front facing camera **253** which may be located vertically above the display **204** when the tablet computer **300** is held in a landscape orientation (i.e. the orientation of FIG. 3). The front facing camera **253** is located so that it may capture images of objects which are located in front of or surrounding the front side of the tablet computer **300**.

The example tablet computer **300** also includes an electromagnetic radiation source **257**. The electromagnetic radiation source **257** is disposed on the front side **304** of the tablet computer **300**. In this orientation, electromagnetic radiation which is produced by the electromagnetic radiation source **257** may be projected onto objects which are located in front of or surrounding the front side **302** of the tablet computer

14

300. Such electromagnetic radiation (or the projection of electromagnetic radiation onto objects) may be captured on images detected by the camera **253**.

The tablet computer **300** may have the ability to run third party applications which are stored on the tablet computer.

The electronic device **201**, which may be tablet computer **300**, is usable by an end-user to send and receive communications using electronic communication services supported by a service provider.

The end-user of an electronic device **201** may send and receive communications with different entities using different electronic communication services. Those services may or may not be accessible using one or more particular electronic devices. For example, a communication source of an end-user's text messages sent and received by an end-user using a particular electronic device **201** having a particular memory module **230**, such as a USIM, may be accessible using that device **201**, but those text messages may not be accessible using another device having a different memory module. Other electronic communication sources, such as a web-based email account, may be accessible via a web-site using a browser on any internet-enabled electronic device.

FIG. 4 shows a system of networked apparatus by which electronic communications can be sent and received using multiple electronic devices **201a**, **201b**, **201c**. Referring to FIG. 4, electronic devices **201a**, **201b** and **201c** are connected to wireless network **101** to perform voice and data communications, and to transmit data to an external display device **290** residing on the wireless network. Wireless network **101** is also connected to the Internet **400**. Electronic device **201a** may be a tablet computer similar to tablet computer **300** described in FIG. 2 above. Electronic devices **201b** and **201c** may be smartphones. Electronic device **201d** is a computing device such as a notebook, laptop or desktop, which is connected by a wired broadband connection to Local Area Network **420**, and which is also connected to the Internet **400**. Electronic devices **201a**, **b**, **c**, **d** may access the Internet **400** to perform data communications therewith.

Servers **410a**, **410b**, **410c** and **410d** are also connected to the Internet **400** and one or more of them may individually or together support electronic communications services available to end-users of electronic devices **201a**, **201b**, **201c** and **201d**, enabling them to send and receive electronic communications. Servers **410a**, **410b**, **410c** and **410d** may be web servers or communications servers, such as email servers.

Other servers and services may of course be provided allowing users of electronic devices **201a**, **201b**, **201c** and **201d** to send and receive electronic communications by, for example, Voice over IP phone calls, video IP calls, video chat, group video chat, blogs, file transfers, instant messaging, and feeds.

Wireless network **101** may also support electronic communications without using Internet **400**. For example, a user of smart phone **201b** may use wireless network **101** to make telephony calls, video calls, send text messages, send multimedia messages, and send instant messages to smart phone **201c**, and to display application data on a display screen of the external display device **290**, or control the display of application data.

The example shown in FIG. 4 is intended to be non-limiting and additional network infrastructure may of course be provided, such as a Public Switched Telephone Network (not shown), which may be used, for example, to make telephony calls using smartphone **201b** to a wired phone (not shown).

To explain exemplary modes of operation, reference will now be made to FIGS. 5 to 8.

15

FIG. 5 depicts a flow chart depicting a method 500 performed by the processor 240 for generating the display data which is output on the display screen 204. At block 504, the input interface 206 detects or obtains an input. The input may comprise any suitable input for issuing a command to the processor 240 via the input interface 206. For example, the input interface 206 may comprise a microphone and the input comprise a voice input; the input interface 206 may be an orientation sensor 251 and the input comprise a location of the device 201 relative to an NFC transceiver; the input interface 206 may be an orientation sensor 251 comprising an accelerometer and the input comprise movement of the device 201 by shaking.

The input interface 206 may also comprise the touchscreen, in which case the electronic device 201 may be referred to as a 'multi-touch device'. The input detected by the touchscreen interface may comprise any suitable user touch-based input. For example, the input may comprise a gesture input such as a tap, a multi-tap, a long press, a swipe or scroll or slide, a pan, a flick, a multi-swipe, a multi-finger tap, a multi-finger scroll or swipe, a pinch, a two-hand pinch, a spread, a two-hand spread, a rotation, a two-hand rotation, a slide and rotation, a multi-direction slide, a multi-finger slide and rotation, a multi-finger slide, etc. It will be appreciated that the gesture input may comprise a sequence of input elements or stages performed within a specified or predetermined time frame, for example, a three-tap gesture in which each tap comprises an element (or a sub-input, a phase or a stage) of the input and the three taps are performed within a time frame that enables the processor 240 to detect the taps as elements of a single input. Additionally or alternatively, an input may comprise removing a point of contact, e.g. a finger or stylus, from the touchscreen interface.

Although many examples described herein refer to a gesture detected by a touch-sensitive display, other methods of gesture detection may be utilized. For example, a gesture may be a generalized trajectory description characterized as a sequence of 3D points in time, and as such many different sensors may be utilized to detect such a gesture. The gesture may be performed by moving a portable electronic device or moving one or more body parts, such as fingers or thumbs as a 3D spatial gesture. For example, sensors, such as an accelerometer/gyroscope, or proximity sensors, or time-of-flight cameras may detect such gestures. Gesture recognition and detection techniques of this type are known.

An accelerometer or gyroscope may be utilized to detect 3D spatial gestures. A sequence of acceleration values may be detected in the different spatial dimensions as a function of time and constitute trajectory information that can be recognized as a gesture. For example, a quick flick or tilt of the portable electronic device are examples of detectable gestures. A 3D spatial gesture includes a continuous movement, a sequence of movements, and a series of continuous movements or sequences of movements. Proximity sensors, optical sensors, and/or cameras may be utilized to detect 3D spatial gestures comprising motion of objects spaced from the device.

A gesture input is different to input of a command by manipulation of a control component presented on the screen because a gesture input can be performed at any location within the display screen (or a large area of the display screen) in contrast to a single contact point for a user finger or input stylus on a corresponding control element. In order to input a command using a control component, the user must contact the screen at a specific location corresponding to that component. For example, in order to change an output volume using a volume control, the user must select the volume

16

control by touching the location at which the volume control is displayed and moving the displayed control element by a desired amount through movement of the user's finger across the screen. Such user input must therefore be precisely controlled in order to use control elements to input commands. Gesture-based inputs, on the other hand, do not require the same precise control as they are not tied to a specific location on the screen. Instead, a user wishing to, e.g., scroll through a list of media content can do so by performing a swipe gesture at any location within a media-player display.

At block 506, the processor 240 generates or updates the display data comprising a display object for display by the display device 204. The display object is representative of an action that will be performed by the processor 240 if the input is continued or completed, i.e. the action that will subsequently be performed by the processor 240 only if the input is determined to be completed or continued beyond a threshold extent or sufficiently for the processor to determine that the input comprises a command to perform the action. Up to this point, the processor 240 does not perform the action and the input is therefore undoable up until its completion and the action is not performed. This is discussed in further detail with respect to FIG. 6 below.

At block 508, the processor 240 outputs the generated or updated display data comprising the updated display object to the output interface 205.

At block 510, the processor 240 determines whether the input detected via the interface 206 is a first input as shown in FIG. 6A(i)-(iii), or a second input as shown in FIGS. 6B(i) to (iii).

At block 512 the processor 240 performs the action only on continuation or completion of the input or on determination that the input comprises the first input. If the input is not continued, the processor 240 determines that the input comprises the second input and does not perform the action. Instead, if the input comprises the second input, processing resumes at block 504.

FIGS. 6A(i)-(iv) and 6B(i)-(iv) depict the display 204 displaying an interface 601 of a media player which is generated from the display data output by the processor 240. A user can control or modify the media output by manipulating the control components 603. This manipulation requires the user to touch the screen at the location at which each control component is displayed. Additionally or alternatively, the user can control or modify the output of the media using gesture based inputs. As discussed in relation to FIG. 5, a gesture input may be performed at any location on the media player interface 601.

FIGS. 6A(i)-(iv) and 6B(i)-(iv) depict example sequence of inputs, the continuation (or completion) of which results in the processor 240 causing a media player to output (or play) a next track in a playlist. In particular, FIG. 6A(i) shows the display 204 for a media player application running, or outputting a current track on the electronic device 201 through the speaker 256, whilst an input is initiated by touching or making contact with the touchscreen interface 206 (e.g. with a finger or touchscreen stylus).

In FIG. 6A(ii), the input is continued by swiping (or moving or sliding) the point of contact in a horizontal motion across the touchscreen interface 206. It will be appreciated that continuation of the input may equally comprise moving the contact in a vertical or diagonal motion across the touchscreen (or a combination of the three). Additionally or alternatively, continuation of the input may comprise maintaining the contact with the touchscreen interface 206 without movement of the point of contact, or completing any of the gesture inputs discussed above with respect to block 502. Completing

17

an input, e.g. a gesture input, means performing the input to an extent required to cause the processor to determine that an action (e.g. start playing the next track) is to be performed in response to the input.

The display object **602** is representative of the action that will be performed if the input is continued beyond the common initial phase to provide the first input. In the example of FIG. 6, the display object **602** comprises a well-known symbol representing the action of skipping (or jumping) to the subsequent track listed by the media player and outputting that track. In this case, the action that will be performed on continuation of the action will be the output of the next track in the playlist and this action is represented by the “next track” display object **602**.

In addition to representing the action that the processor **240** will subsequently perform on continuation of the input, the display object **602** may also represent a current phase, stage, or degree of completion, of the input through variation of a parameter or characteristic of the display object **602**. For example, the display object **602** shown in FIGS. 6A(ii) and 6B(ii) is part-filled (or part coloured-in) to represent that the contact has been moved part of the distance required to provide the first input (i.e. part of the distance required to cause the processor **240** to perform the action).

Further examples of suitable display objects include arrows, other known media player control symbols, text, egg-timer symbols, images of media content or software applications, or a number of these elements grouped together as a display object. Each display object **602** has one or more visual parameters associated with it which can be varied to show degree of completion of the input and which comprise one or more of brightness, colour, contrast, opacity, frequency, amplitude, speed, or the number or thickness of a plurality of lines (e.g. hatching).

As shown in FIG. 6A(iii), the input is completed by moving the contact to a sufficient extent to cause the processor **240** to perform the action thereby resulting in the media player outputting the subsequent track in a playlist. In this case, the display object **602** is filled-in, thereby indicating that the input has been completed. FIG. 6A(iv) depicts the output display **601** of the media player after the action corresponding to the input has been completed, i.e. the media player display depicting the track which is now being played.

FIGS. 6B(i)-(iv) show the display **204** depicting a second input in which the input is not continued to a sufficient extent to result in the processor **240** performing the action. It can be seen that the input stages depicted in FIGS. 6B(i) and 6B(ii) are respectively the same as those depicted in FIGS. 6A(i) and 6A(ii). Hence, these input stages correspond to an initial input (or initial input phase or stage) that is common to both the first and second input.

During this common initial input phase, the processor **240** is able to determine the potential action that it will perform in response to the input, i.e. the action that will subsequently be performed by the processor **240** if the input is continued to provide a first input as depicted in FIG. 6A (i.e. if the common initial input phase is followed by the phase depicted in FIG. 6A(iii)). However, during this common initial input, the processor **240** cannot yet determine whether or not this action will be performed as the common initial input may instead be followed by the phase depicted in FIG. 6B(iii).

In the example depicted in FIG. 6B(iii), the contact with the touchscreen interface **206** has not moved a sufficient distance for continuation of the input beyond the common initial phase as depicted in FIG. 6A(iv). Instead, the contact is moved back toward the location at which the contact was initially made or simply released, thereby ‘undoing’ or abandoning the input.

18

In this case, the media player interface **601** returns to the original screen at FIG. 6B(iv) and the media player continues to play the current track.

Whilst the displays of FIGS. 6A(i)-(iv) and 6B(i)-(iv) relate to an input comprising a swipe across a touchscreen interface **206**, analogous sequences arise for other types of input. For example, for a voice input, the common initial phase may comprise inputting a voice signal of a given intensity, with a first input type being provided if the voice input intensity continues above a threshold intensity or for a duration longer than a threshold duration, whilst a second input is provided if the voice input intensity does not surpass the intensity or duration threshold in which case, the processor **240** does not perform the action.

Similarly, in the example of an input comprising shaking the electronic device **201**, if the shaking intensity continues beyond a threshold intensity or a threshold duration, the input will be the first input and the processor **240** will perform the corresponding action. Alternatively, if the shaking intensity does not continue beyond the threshold intensity the second input is provided, in which case the processor **240** does not perform the corresponding action.

As discussed, the display object **602** is progressively filled further (or coloured in) as the distance moved by the contact increases. In this way, the further movement or input required in order to cause the processor **240** to perform the relevant action is indicated (or represented or symbolised) by the display object **602**. A user of the device **201** is therefore guided by the display object with respect to the input required in order to cause a desired output. Additionally, the user is guided by the display object as to whether or not it is possible to abandon the input without causing performance of the subsequent action.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart depicting a method **700** for generating display data. Block **704** of method **700** corresponds directly to block **504** of method **500**.

At block **706**, the processor **240** generates or updates data comprising a second type of display object **604** for display by the display device **204**, wherein the display object **604** is representative of content that will subsequently be output on continuation or completion of the user input. In the examples of FIGS. 6(i)-(iv), the display object **604** is a banner displaying a title of a song that will be played if the user completes a horizontal swipe gesture. Further examples of display objects include thumbnail images or any other representation of an output on the display screen **204** or from other outputs of the device **201** that will occur in response to completion of the input.

At block **708**, the processor **240** outputs the generated or updated data on the display device **204**. In this case, the processor **240** causes the display object **604** to appear on the display device over time as the user input is being detected by the input interface (or during performance of the user input). Furthermore, the processor **240** causes the display object **604** to appear on the display device **204** at a different rate to the rate at which the user input is detected. For example, the processor **240** may cause the display object **604** to appear on the display device at a rate faster (or slower) than the rate at which the user input is detected via the interface. A particular example is when completion of the user input results in the processor **240** causing a media player to play a next track, in which case the display object **604** shown in the figures comprises a banner display of the title of the next track and the banner display appears on the display screen **204** at a faster rate than a rate of completion of the user input.

In the example of FIGS. 6A(i)-(iv), the display object **604** comprises the title of the song that will be played if the user

19

completes the input. The display object **604** appears during the common initial input and is decipherable before completion of the input. Accordingly, the user is informed of the consequence of completing the input in sufficient time before completion of the input to allow the user to abandon (or undo) the input if desired. In this way, the display object provides a preview of a future operational state of the device **201** that will arise if the input is completed.

FIG. **8** is a flow chart depicting a method **800** for modifying an output of media content. At block **802** a media player application outputs media content through the output interface **205**. For example, the media player application being executed by the processor **240** may play (or output) a track or a video stored in the memory **244** through the speaker **256**, the display device **204** or both the speaker **256** and the display device. Alternatively, the media player application may play a track or a video stored at a remote location accessed across the network **101** through the speaker **256**, the display device **204** or both the speaker **256** and the display device **204**.

At block **804**, the processor **240** detects a first input comprising a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface **206**. In particular, the swipe gesture may be across the media player interface **601**. The swipe may be in a vertical, horizontal or diagonal direction across the touchscreen interface **206** or a gesture input comprising a multi-directional swipe gesture.

At block **806**, the processor **240** modifies the current output of the media content in response to the first input detected by the touchscreen interface **206**. For example, the processor **240** may pause the output of the media content, increase or decrease the output volume of the media player, cause the media player to output the next or the previous track instead of a current track, or perform any other suitable modification of the media content output. In this manner, the main functions of a media player application can be easily and efficiently controlled by a user even in situations where the user is unable to view the electronic device **201** or precisely control the input.

At block **808**, the processor **240** detects a second user input comprising a swipe gesture in a direction (or directions) opposite to the first swipe gesture input. For example, if the first swipe gesture input is a vertical swipe across the touchscreen interface in an upward direction, the second swipe gesture input comprises a vertical swipe across the touchscreen interface in a downward direction.

At block **810**, the processor **240** responds to the second swipe gesture by reversing the performance of the modification (or 'undoing' the modification of block **806**). For example, if the processor **240** pauses output of a song in response to a downward vertical swipe gesture, the processor **240** then re-commences output of the song in response to an upward vertical swipe gesture. Similarly, if the processor **240** increases the output volume in response to an upward vertical swipe gesture, the processor **240** then decreases the output volume (or returns to the original output volume) in response to a downward vertical swipe gesture.

It will be appreciated that, as discussed in relation to FIGS. **5**, **6A(i)-(iv)** and **6B(i)-(iv)**, at block **806**, **808**, or both, the processor **240** may only modify the media output (i.e. perform the action corresponding to the input) if the input is determined to be a first type of input as discussed in relation to FIGS. **6A(i)-(iv)** and **6B(i)-(iv)**.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for generating a display object, the method comprising:

detecting a gesture based user input via an input interface, the user input comprising a portion of a first input; and

20

operating a processor in communication with the input interface to:

generate, in response to detecting the user input, the display object for display by a display device, wherein the display object comprises an outline of one or more shapes symbolizing an action that will subsequently be performed by the processor on completion of the first input, wherein the outline of the one or more shapes is substantially fully filled on completion of the first input; and

output the display object on the display device while the first input is detected,

wherein a change in the display object in response to the detected user input is indicative of an extent of completion of the first input, and wherein the change in the display of the display object comprises progressively changing the color of the one or more shapes, progressively changing the shading of the one or more shapes, or progressively filling the outline of the one or more shapes.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the first input comprises a first additional input which is detectable by the processor after the portion of the first input is detected.

3. The method of claim **2**, wherein the display object is visual cue representative of the first additional input.

4. The method of claim **3**, wherein the user input also comprises a portion of a second input, and wherein the processor does not perform the action in response to the second input.

5. The method of claim **4**, wherein the second input comprises a second additional input which is detectable by the processor after the portion of the first input is detected, wherein the first additional input and the second additional input are different.

6. The method of claim **1**, further comprising operating the processor to:

determine whether completion of the first input has occurred; and

perform the action only if completion of the first input is detected.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the display object is caused to appear on the display device as the portion of the first input is being detected, wherein the rate at which the display object appears is different to the rate of detection of the portion of the first input.

8. The method of claim **1**, wherein at least an outline of the display object is displayed in its entirety in response to detecting the portion of the first input.

9. The method of claim **1**, wherein the display object is displayed as a whole in response to detection of the portion of the first input, and a change in the display of the display object is representative of an extent of completion of the first input.

10. The method of claim **1**, wherein the action corresponds to a selection of media content and wherein the processor outputs the media content.

11. The method of claim **1**, wherein the user interface is a touchscreen interface, the user input comprises a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface, and the action comprises modifying a current output of media content.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein modifying the current output of the media content comprises pausing output of the media content.

13. The method of claim **2**, wherein the first additional input is a user input.

14. The method of claim **5**, wherein the second additional input is a user input.

21

15. A non-transitory computer-readable medium comprising executable instructions which, when executed, cause the processor to:

detect a gesture based user input via an input interface, the user input comprising a portion of a first input;

generate, in response to detecting the user input, a display object for display by a display device, wherein the display object comprises an outline of one or more shapes symbolizing an action that will subsequently be performed by the processor on completion of the first input, wherein the outline of the one or more shapes is substantially fully filled on completion of the first input; and

output the display object on the display device whilst the first input is being detected, wherein a change in the display object in response to the detected user input is indicative of an extent of completion of the first input, and wherein the change in the display of the display comprises progressively changing the shading of the one or more shapes, progressively changing the color of the one or more shapes, or progressively filling the outline of the one or more shapes.

16. A device for generating a display object, the device comprising:

an input interface configured to detect a gesture based user input, the user input comprising a portion of a first input;

a processor in communication with the input interface, the processor being configured to:

generate, in response to detecting the user input, a display object for display by a display device, wherein the display object comprises an outline of one or more shapes symbolizing an action that will subsequently be performed by the processor on completion of the first input, wherein the outline of the one or more shapes is substantially fully filled on completion of the first input; and

output the display object on the display device whilst the first input is being detected, wherein a change in the display object in response to the detected user input is indicative of an extent of completion of the first input, and wherein the change in the display of the display object comprises progressively filling the outline of the one or more shapes, progressively changing the

22

color of the one or more shapes, or progressively changing the shading of the one or more shapes.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the first input comprises a first additional input which is detectable by the processor after the portion of the first input.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the display object is a visual cue representative of the first additional input.

19. The device of claim 16, wherein the user input comprises:

a second input, in response to which the processor does not perform the action, the second input also comprising the portion of the first input.

20. The device of claim 16, wherein the second input comprises a second additional input which is detectable by the processor after the portion of the first input, wherein the first additional input and the second additional input are different.

21. The device of claim 16, further comprising operating the processor to:

determine whether completion of the first input has occurred; and

perform the action only if completion of the first input is detected.

22. The device of claim 16, wherein the display object is caused to appear on the display device as the portion of the first input is being detected, wherein the rate at which the display object appears is different to the rate of detection of the first input.

23. The device of claim 16, wherein at least an outline of the display object is displayed in its entirety in response to detecting the portion of the first input.

24. The device of claim 16, wherein the display object is displayed as a whole in response to detection of the portion of the first input, and a change in the display of the display object is representative of an extent of completion of the first input.

25. The device of claim 16, wherein the action corresponds to a selection of media content and wherein the processor outputs the media content.

26. The device of claim 16, wherein the user interface is a touchscreen interface, the user input comprises a swipe gesture across the touchscreen interface, and the action comprises modifying a current output of media content.

* * * * *